

Vancouver Lake and Lake River Watershed

Overview of water body health in the Vancouver Lake and Lake River

The tidal influence, sluggish flow conditions, and channel modifications to control the Columbia River flood plain were important factors in degrading the health of Lake River and Vancouver Lake. Vancouver Lake is rated in poor health by the state based on its high nutrient concentrations, excessive alga growth, poor clarity, and excessive vegetation. Pollutant sources include runoff from urban and rural lands in Burnt Bridge Creek and Salmon Creek watersheds.

Lake River is rated as having fair health based on Washington Department of Ecology data. The state, however, listed Lake River as not meeting water quality standards for temperature and harmful bacteria. As with Vancouver Lake, Lake River is influenced by the quality of water from the streams that flow into it. Salmon and Whipple creeks carry excessive nutrients, sediment, harmful bacteria, and warm water into the river. Much of Lake River flows through open fields and lacks shade trees along its bank.

Management objectives for Vancouver Lake and Lake River

- Identifying and removing sources of harmful bacteria
- Adding shade trees to tributary streams
- Applying current stormwater regulations to limit harm from new construction
- Improving the water quality of tributary streams
- Planting trees that will grow tall enough to provide some shade to Lake River during summer months



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Stream Health 2003

Stream Health Ratings	Description	Land Cover Key
Excellent	Pristine, superior, or unsurpassed condition; minimal human disturbance	Forest
Good	Healthy enough to support aquatic life and recreation	Grass/Shrubs
Fair	Degraded but may support aquatic life and recreation	Residential/Recently cleared land
Poor	Inferior health, poorly suited for aquatic life and recreation	Commercial/Industrial
Very Poor	Severely degraded health; unsuitable for aquatic life or recreation	
Unassessed	No data collected	
Probable	Predicted stream health	